

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the final Office Action mailed July 28, 2005. Applicant proposes no claim amendments, and claims 1-16 remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner continues to reject claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0034700 A1 to Polcyn ("Polcyn"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections (and the statements by the Examiner in support of the rejections) for the following reasons.¹

Claim 1 of the present application recites a method including:

- receiving, via the data network, at least one pattern for forwarding communications in the voice network and applicable to a time period, the at least one pattern including a source identifier, a destination number and a forwarding destination identifier;
- storing the at least one pattern in a calendar; and
- configuring the voice network based on the at least one pattern and the time period.

Independent claim 14 recites a computer readable medium comprising computer program code capable of configuring a device to perform a similar method.

Independent claim 8 likewise recites an apparatus that includes:

- means for receiving, via the data network, at least one pattern for forwarding communications in the voice network and applicable to a time period, the at least one pattern including a source identifier, a destination number and a forwarding destination identifier;
- means for storing the at least one pattern in a calendar; and
- means for configuring the voice network based on the at least one pattern and the time period.

¹ As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such in the future.

Absent from the system described in Polcyn is any discussion of a call forwarding pattern applicable to a time period that includes a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier, as recited in claims 1, 8 and 14.

Applicant notes the Examiner's assertion that:

Polcyn teaches a method and system configuring communications in a voice network via a data network, comprising: receiving, via the data network, at least one pattern in a calendar for forwarding communications in the voice network; determining a time period for the at least one pattern based on the calendar; and configuring the voice network based on a least one pattern and the time period. (Office Action, p. 2.)

However, the Examiner does not specifically indicate where in the description of Polcyn there is any description of a call forwarding pattern applicable to a time period that includes a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier. Furthermore, Applicant has reviewed Figure 1 and the paragraphs of Polcyn cited by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 1-16 and has found no description of a call forwarding pattern applicable to a time period that includes a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier. For example, "routing table 112" (identified by the Examiner in the Office Action) does not contain call forwarding patterns that include a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier (as recited in the claims), but merely blocks of time and one or more forwarding destinations ("voice mail", "pager," etc.).

Applicant respectfully submits that Polcyn neither teaches nor suggests all of the elements of claims 1, 8 and 14, and therefore claims 1, 8 and 14 are patentable over Polcyn. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 8 and 14. As claims 2-4 are dependent from claim 1, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicant believes claims 2-4 to be patentable over Polcyn for at least the same reasons as claim 1.² As claims 9-11 are dependent from claim 8,

² As Applicant's remarks with respect to the base independent claims in the present application are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections of all claims dependent therefrom, Applicant's silence as to the Examiner's assertions with respect to dependent claims in this Response is not a concession by Applicant to the Examiner's assertions as to these claims, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such assertions in the future.

and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 8, Applicant believes claims 9-11 to be patentable over Polcyn for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the rejections as to claims 2-4 and 9-11 as well.

Independent claim 5 recites a method that includes:

- providing a calendar-based form over a data network, including a plurality of time periods;
- receiving, in the calendar-based form, pattern information identifying a pattern for forwarding communications in a voice network, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a destination forwarding identifier;
- storing the pattern information in a database system; and
- determining at least one of the plurality of time periods that the pattern is in effect.

Independent claim 15 recites a computer readable medium comprising computer program code capable of configuring a device to perform a similar method.

Independent claim 12 likewise recites an apparatus that includes:

- means for providing a calendar-based form over a data network, including a plurality of time periods;
- means for receiving, in the calendar-based form, pattern information identifying a pattern for forwarding communications in a voice network, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a destination forwarding identifier;
- means for storing the pattern information in a database system; and
- means for determining at least one of the plurality of time periods that the pattern is in effect.

Polcyn neither teaches nor suggests all of the elements of claims 5, 12 and 15. For example, as noted above in discussion of claim 1, Polcyn neither teaches nor suggests receiving, in a calendar-based form, pattern information identifying a pattern for forwarding communications in a voice network, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a destination forwarding identifier (or computer program code to configure a device to perform such receiving, or any means for such receiving). For at least this reason, Applicant believes claims 5, 12 and 15 are not anticipated by Polcyn, and therefore Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 5, 12 and 15. As claim 6 is dependent from

claim 5, and therefore includes all of the limitations of claim 5, Applicant believes claim 6 to be patentable over Polcyn for at least the same reasons as claim 5. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection as to claim 6 as well.

Independent claim 7 recites a method that includes:

- receiving, via a data network, pattern information indicating a pattern for forwarding communications in a time period of a calendar, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier;
- storing the pattern information;
- receiving a communications request associated with the source identifier and directed to the destination identifier;
- forwarding the communications request to the forwarding destination identifier based on the time period, the destination identifier and the source identifier.

Independent claim 16 recites a computer readable medium comprising computer program code capable of configuring a device to perform a similar method.

Independent claim 13 likewise recites an apparatus that includes:

- means for receiving, via a data network, pattern information indicating a pattern for forwarding communications in a time period of a calendar, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier;
- means for storing the pattern information;
- means for receiving a communications request associated with the source identifier and directed to the destination identifier;
- means for forwarding the communications request to the forwarding destination identifier based on the time period, the destination identifier and the source identifier.

Polcyn neither teaches nor suggests all of the elements of claims 7, 13 and 16. For example, as noted above with respect to claim 1, Polcyn neither teaches nor suggests receiving, via a data network, pattern information indicating a pattern for forwarding communications in a time period of a calendar, the pattern information including a source identifier, a destination identifier and a forwarding destination identifier (or computer program code to configure a device to perform such receiving, or any means for such receiving). For at least this reason, Applicant believes claims 7, 13 and 16 are

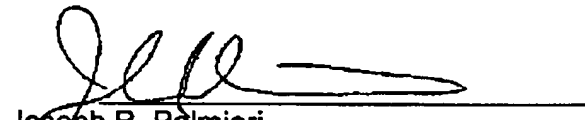
not anticipated by Polcyn, and therefore Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 7, 13 and 16.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner pass this application to issue. If there are any outstanding issues which the Examiner believes need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by phone at the number indicated below to discuss such issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to patent office deposit account 07-2347.

Respectfully submitted,

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